



**Fremont Cemetery Trustees
Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2011
Approved May 2, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm in the basement meeting room of the Fremont Town Hall.

Present: Cemetery Trustees Richard Rand, Bob Stackpole, Leon Holmes, Jr. and Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Mr. Stackpole motioned to accept the minutes of the January 3, 2011 meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Holmes with favorable vote 3-0.

Old Business

Monuments:

Mrs. Bolduc reported that the following is a result of her research into where the monument repair responsibility lies and what other Towns do about repairing broken monuments.

- Enfield - has it in their cemetery ordinance rules that they will repair grave markers only if no living owner or owners of the lot can be located.
- Chester - has it in their rules that the cemetery is only responsible for damage to monuments or markers if said damage is caused by cemetery personnel.
- Hooksett- has in their Cemetery Regulations that the duty of the Town shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any monuments or markers in the cemetery lots.

Broken monuments: Mrs. Bolduc said she contacted Matthew Thomas for a list of professionals who do monument repair. He recommended Sypher's Monument Co. in Hampton, NH. and said that Mr. Syphers prices are about as reasonable as can be expected at \$35.00 per hour, including supplies, compared to other monument companies in the area. Mrs. Bolduc spoke with Roger Sypher who said he is familiar with the Fremont Village Cemetery as he has placed stones in the cemetery on a number of occasions. He has also done work for a number of area Towns including Newfields, Seabrook, Kingston, Portsmouth and Rye. The Trustees viewed some pictures Mr. Syphers sent of his monument repair work.

Mr. Rand said he still feels a cemetery lot is owned by the purchaser and the Town taxpayers should not be responsible for spending money on repairing monuments. Mr. Stackpole pointed out that the cemetery is owned by the Town. Further conversation was relative to monument repair and whether it would be better to hire someone at an hourly rate or by the job. Mr.

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Holmes suggested that there be more research before making a decision on what to do about the broken monuments. There was also a conversation of whether there should be a rule in the Cemetery Ordinance that addresses the responsibility of monument repair.

NH RSA 289:4 Maintenance. – *Every municipality shall raise and appropriate sufficient funds, by taxation or otherwise, to provide for the suitable care and maintenance of the municipal public cemeteries within its boundaries which are not otherwise provided for, and to provide and maintain around all such cemeteries a good and sufficient fence, and to supply the fence with necessary gates. Every municipality may raise and appropriate annually a sufficient sum to provide for the suitable care and maintenance of deserted burial grounds and cemeteries which have been declared abandoned in accordance with RSA 289:19-21.*

NH RSA 289:9 Use of Trust Funds. – *Cemetery corporations and the trust fund trustees of municipalities may take and hold funds in trust, and may apply the income of the trust to the improvement, watering, or embellishment of the cemetery, or to the care, preservation, or embellishment of any lot or its appurtenances.*

Footings: The Trustees discussed proper construction for monument footings and asked Mrs. Bolduc to find out what other towns require. It was agreed that footing requirements may be something that needs to be added to the Cemetery Ordinance.

Maintenance:

Mr. Rand said he understands that the maintenance worker has given his resignation. This prompted a conversation relative to mowing and other maintenance items of both cemeteries and there was some concern about having someone in place to do the work when the cemeteries open on April 1st.

Gates: Bob Henderson of Henderson Welding has not yet replaced the three gate sections at the Village Cemetery. It was previously understood that this will be done when the ground is clear of snow. The Trustees asked Mrs. Bolduc to contact Mr. Henderson and relate that they would like the gate section finished by April 15th so they have time to mount them on the posts before Memorial Day.

VILLAGE CEMETERY

The Trustees agreed that:

- The lots in the back of the Village Cemetery need to be leveled off and made ready to sell. Mr. Rand stated that there is room for 20 to 30 lots.
- The uprooted trees behind the shed need to be cleared away.
- The wall on the Brentwood end needs to be fixed.

Mr. Holmes reported that the culvert at the back of the cemetery is partially open and seems to be running fine.

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LEAVITT CEMETERY

The Trustees agreed that:

- The area that is open behind the wall has been expanded and just needs some loam spread.
- Spread the loam that is already onsite.
- Repair the double gate at the front of the cemetery. Mr. Rand said that the gate is whole, it just needs to be re-set.
- Install a hand pump at the well. Mr. Rand said that this would be new to the Leavitt Cemetery as there has never been a pump there before.

New Business - Leavitt

There was a discussion relative to loam. Mr. Holmes said they found that the loam that was collected beside the roads and brought in was full of glass and is no good for spreading. The Trustees collectively agreed to meet at the Leavitt Cemetery before the next meeting to look over the loam pile already on site to see if it needs to be screened, decide how much more is needed, and also to check out what else needs to be done there.

At 4:55 pm Mr. Rand made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Stackpole with favorable vote 3-0.

Next meeting

3:30 pm on Monday May 2, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc, Recording Secretary